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71 BERETANIA

SWEEPING CHANGES IN MAKEUP OF U. S. ARMY PLANNED BY BOARD

Scheme Includes Force of Ten Thousand Men for Oahu with
Large Reserve Composed of Men Who Have Served
Their Time With the Colors

Sweeping changes in the make-up
of the United States army, which are
of special interest to Oahu, are em-
bodied in the report of the General
Staff. If carried out, the scheme will
include not only a force of 10,000 men
for Hawaii, as announced some months
ago, but also a large reserve force,
composed of soldiers who have served
their time with the colors, and
who will then be encouraged to re-
main in the Territory as Federal re-
servists.

The General Staff has completed its
plans for an entire reorganization and
increase of this country's military es-
tablishment, a work upon which it
has been engaged ever since it was
founded some months ago. Although
the report containing these plans is
now in type, it will probably not be
presented to Congress at this session,
owing to the fact that members of
the Senate and House Committees on
Military Affairs desire ample time in
which to consider all the provisions
recommended by the General Staff.

Among those most active in the con-
ference on these plans are Senator
Root of New York, former Secretary
of War, and Senator DuPont, of Dela-
ware, Chairman of the Senate Com-
mittee on Military Affairs.

The plan for the reorganization of
the army, as drawn up by the Gen-
eral Staff, is declared by experts to
be the most important and compre-
hensive piece of constructive work
along these lines ever performed in
this country. It is also regarded as
marking the first schematic military
policy yet drawn up for the land
forces of the United States. While
some of its details have been em-
bodied in Congressional bills or let-
ters of the Secretary of War, the re-
port has never yet been made public
in its entirety.

Be Always Prepared.
The great object sought to be gained
is the organization of the army on a
footing of constant readiness for
war, with a permanent expeditionary
force always ready for instant service.
In order to insure this result, it is re-
commended that the forces liable for
duty anywhere be increased about
seven times.

In the regular army the highest pro-
posed unit of organization is raised
and the mobile branches, which in-
clude all arms except the coast artill-
ery, are divided into two parts, the
foreign and the domestic. The do-
mestic service is to be kept perma-
nently in continental United States,
while the foreign service is to be
sent to American territory elsewhere,
to remain, as an organization, out-
side of this country for good.

In addition to a proposal making
for the federalization, within Consti-
tutional limits, of the present National
State Guard, the General Staff also
asks for the creation of two new types
of American soldier; namely, the fed-
eral reservist and the federal volun-
teer, the latter to be recruited in tie
of peace for war service, and held re-
sponsible only to the central govern-
ment.

The General Staff also recommends
that the present regular army be re-
lieved of police duties in Alaska, and
suggests that peace be preserved in
that district by a federal constabulary
to be legislated into existence by Con-
gress. If this suggestion becomes
law, the United States will have, for
the first time in its history, a police
force owing its authority directly to
the federal government.

In outlining the importance of this
reorganization, the General Staff
points out that the land forces of the
United States are now in no condition
to face the armies of a first-class
power, and maintains that the neces-
sity for this country so to prepare it-
self is immediate and imperative.

"Whatever our military institutions
may be," says the report, "we must
recognize the fundamental fact that
victory is the reward of superior
force, that modern wars are short and
decisive, and that trained armies can
alone defeat trained armies."

Progress Since Spanish War.
The report refers to the "close
contact recently established" between
"great nations and the races," a con-
tact which "tends to become contin-
ually closer, due to the increase of
population and national needs." The
report then goes on to say: "With
this close contact thus so recently es-
tablished comes a competition, com-
mercial, national and racial, whose
ultimate seriousness current events
already enable us to gauge. Since our
conflict with Spain in 1898 practically
all of the principal nations of the
earth have either been actively en-
gaged in war or else brought to the
verge of actual war. The evidence is
clear that the nations and races cap-
able of maintaining and protecting
themselves are the only ones who can
flourish in this world competition."

In the light of present
day conditions it is estimated that at
the outbreak of war with a first class
power we should be capable of mobiliz-
ing at once in the United States an
effective force of 400,000 men,
troops and 42,000 Coast Artillery; that
this is the minimum number of first
line troops necessary; and that to
augment this force and replace its
losses we should have plans made for
raising immediately an additional
force of 300,000 men.

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of these forces should be available
for service anywhere.

The present land forces of the
United States comprise in the regular
army about 66,000 men out of a total
of 95,500 authorized, and in the Na-
tional Guard about 125,000 men. The
National Guard is not liable for duty
on foreign soil, though it can volun-
teer for this service.

Change Enlistment.

In order to raise the compliment of
trained men the General Staff propos-
es to augment the standing army by
changing the terms of the present en-
listment contract to conform to the
practice adopted in all other modern
armies.

"It is only necessary to provide,"
says the General Staff report, "that a
man's service shall consist of two pe-
riods, one period with the colors, and
the other a period of war obligation
for a limited time after leaving the
service. Under these circumstances
when war is declared the active army
is at once sent into the field and the
former soldiers having a war obliga-
tion are assembled in depots, where
they can be forwarded to the front as
needed. The enlistment contract pro-
posed is for six years, divided half
and half. However, by far the great-
est number of men required for war
purposes under the plan proposed by
the General Staff, will have to be
drawn from civil life. Under present
conditions, the General Staff points
out, the only citizen soldiers in the
United States are furnished by the
National Guard, which is under state
control and owes only incidental sup-
port to the federal government. In
time of peace the National Guard can
be used only for intra-state purposes,
such as the suppression of strikes or
breaches of the peace, unless in the
very improbable event that it is called
upon by the President to serve in
quelling disorder in some state. A re-
cent ruling of Attorney General Wick-
ham declares that under no cir-
cumstances can the National Guard
be called upon to serve outside of the
United States. The General Staff pro-
poses to give Federal pay to National
Guardmen who will comply with fed-
eral standards of soldiery and who
will also agree in time of war to sepa-
rate themselves from state control
and follow the national colors to any
quarter of the globe. This suggestion
will, it is thought, get around the con-
stitutional provision which regards the
militia wholly as a state force.

The second supply of citizen sol-
diers which the General Staff hopes to
create in time of peace for war pur-
poses will be organized as federal
volunteers. These men will sign arti-
cles to support the National govern-
ment in war, but will not be called
upon to serve in intra-State troubles
save as a last resource. They are "to
be organized under prearranged plans
when greater forces are required than
can be furnished by the regular army
and the organized citizen soldiery. The
peace organization of the regular
army with the organized division dis-
tricts of the national guard should in-
clude the machinery for the recruiting
organization, and mobilization of this
third great line of national defense."

This division of the citizen soldiery
into State and federal volunteers, says
the report, "would afford obvious ad-
vantages to all concerned: the Na-
tional Government would know upon
what forces it could count; the States
could proportion their forces to local
needs and individuals would have the
choice of the particular kind of ser-
vice they preferred; that is, State ser-
vice with limited war liability or war
service only, under the national gov-
ernment."

By way of increasing the efficiency
of the army, both regular and volun-
teer, it is recommended that the pre-
sent "complex of units without regular
grouping" be abolished. In place of
taking the regiment as a field unit, the
General Staff advocates the creation
of divisions, consisting of nine regi-
ments each of infantry, and brigades
comprising three regiments each of
cavalry. This plan would necessitate,
says the report of the General Staff,
an increase in the number of Brigadier
Generals to seventeen, as against the
present authorized complement of fif-
teen. The number of major generals,
would stay at the present authorized
number of six.

New Divisions.
The organization of the regular
army on the division basis is declar-
ed to be the moving reason for the
proposal to reduce the number of
army posts from forty-nine to eight, a
step which would replace the present
dispersal of the regular land forces by
a greater concentration. It is propos-
ed to make each of these eight army
posts a division headquarters under
the new arrangement. "The rational
and economic way of disposing of our
troops," says the forthcoming report
of the General Staff, "in time of peace
is to quarter them in simple but sub-
stantial buildings in or near large
towns, where all existing utilities may
be made use of."

Among the secondary changes rec-
ommended by the General Staff is the
many army bureaus whose fields or
operations overlap or fail to show
proper teamwork. A revision of the
present system of promotion for offi-
cers is also advocated.

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